

## WOMAN'S WORLD.

GOOD SHOWING MADE BY WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Woman In Public Affairs—The Bicycle Made Useful—Women Doctors For Insease Women—Dressing the Bride—Legislation For Women.

Time, according to the latest—ninth—published report—1893-94—of the United States civil service commission, has brought about a decided increase in the chances for women who wish to enter the public service. The civil service law practically went into effect in 1883. The report for 1883 stated that while the "law" made no distinction on account of sex, the "operating power" had this far used its discretion in the selection from the list of eligibles of less than one-sixth as many women as men, although a larger proportion of female than male competitors passed. During the fiscal year 1893-94, 147 women were appointed to the classified departmental services—exclusive of 122 printer's assistants in the bureau of printing and engraving. During the same period 776 men were appointed or a proportion of women to men of somewhat less than 1 to 5. In the year 1883—the period covered by the present report—the number of women appointed in corresponding departments was 38 and of men 275, showing a proportion of women to men of a little more than 1 to 8, a very decided gain for women.

While the commission naively expresses that it is unable to account for this change in favor of the part of the appointing power in comments on the fact as one of general interest and suggests that it "probably shows that the prejudice which has hitherto existed to some extent against the appointment of women to the classified service is gradually disappearing."

While, however, the lists of tables of promotions are scrutinized, we feel that the mystery is partly explained. By executive order December, 1893, promotions were put on the basis of the efficiency records kept in the departments and the class competitive tests which have supplemented these records. These show that with women in the public service have a fair and even chance with the men they were fully aware of the more lucrative and responsible positions. It has been noticed that this is especially true with reference to those who have come into the service through the competitive examinations of the commissions.

The extension of the merit system is the main explanation of the remarkable increase in the number of women appointed and promoted in the classified civil service is disclosed by the elaborate tables incorporated in this report. At the civil service examinations throughout the country a higher general average of marks is secured by women than by men, except in the more difficult technical examinations, where as a rule women do not compete—"when they do the showing is decidedly in favor of the men." The earlier reports of the commission did not always indicate the sex of competitors, but a table has been prepared which gives the ratio of women to the whole number examined, as well as their ratio to the whole number who passed the examinations for different branches of the service from January, 1884, to June 30, 1893. We find that whereas the women were only 12 per cent of the number examined, over 77 per cent of women passed as against some 50 per cent of the men. The men's record is improved, however, the general proportion being raised to 62 per cent, if we add the examinations for the railway mail service, for which women are ineligible.—New York Post.

## Woman In Public Affairs.

The United States Senate on Feb. 15 discussed a bill providing for town sites in Oklahoma. Senator Peltier offered an amendment to change the words "qualified voters" to "all citizens of the United States." Senator Blackburn opposed the amendment on the ground that "it would make every woman as well as every man to that territory a qualified voter." Senator Peltier said:

"Mr. President, my intention is very plain, I intend to avail myself of every opportunity to strike out the word 'male' where that word remains which will interfere in any way with the rights of females. The time has come when we need the help of women in public affairs. If there is any portion of the human family that more than another is interested in the home, it is the women—our mothers, our wives, our daughters. Every young man when he searches for a wife and makes a selection does it believing that he has not only selected the last woman in the world, but one who is his equal in every respect. There is not one man in a family in every 100,000, if he is worthy of the name of a man, who does not believe that his wife is fully his equal in taking care of all the interests of the family, in looking after the children while they are young, and who does not know that after the boy and the girl leave the parental roof her sympathy, her love, her affection, her prayers and her tears follow them wherever they go. I repeat, Mr. President, whenever I have a favorable opportunity I propose to avantage of it and give to woman—God bless her—every advantage, every right and every privilege that I enjoy."

The amendment was lost—15 to 42.

## The Bicycle Made Useful.

I believe the wheel will yet be responsible for many changes and advancements in women's dress that we are not yet prepared for. And the time is soon coming when a woman on a wheel will excite no more comment, no matter how tight her dress, than would be excited by the same woman afoot. Women need this exercise more than men. There are many women who have more time to ride than men. There are thousands of women living near towns or villages who perhaps have horses,

who do not get the exercise or go down town as often as they would. The men folks are away, "nobody to hitch up, got to dress, etc., and we'll let it go until tomorrow."

Even the short mile or less is more than she cares to undertake for the desire. But give that same woman a wheel, and the mile is reduced to less than a quarter. The little ride can be made a pleasure. She can do the shopping or go to the post office and take pleasure in it and not miss the time, and the bit of exercise, so different from any other, will do her good. Many women will get interested in riding by learning at seashore and summer resorts. When time hangs rather heavy and there is but little going on, they will learn to ride. And once knowing its practical side they will be loath to give it up, even if it has not the exact approval of their set. The middle aged women so hard to get interested in anything that needs physical exertion, and at a time of life when they need it the most, will find this an interesting way of getting that exercise and doing something at the same time, for there is always something to do and somewhere to go.—Boston Herald.

**Women Doctors For Disease Women.**

A bill is pending in the Virginia legislature for the election of a woman physician for each of the insane asylums of the state, to have charge of the female departments therein. It is practically the same bill that passed the house two years ago almost without dissent. There is considerable agitation over the matter. Mrs. E. A. Gibbons of Tazewell, who for six years was matron and housekeeper in an insane asylum, has written a convincing letter to the Richmond Dispatch in behalf of the measure. It is strongly supported by the Norfolk Landmark, the Broadway Enterprise and the Staunton Virginian. The latter newspaper



BLACK SILK AND VELVET GOWNS.

The gown on the right is of beige camel's hair and emerald green velvet. The lower skirt is of velvet brocaded with fine gold thread of native silver-colored lace. The bodice is of velvet brocaded with the emel's hair and augmented with a rich broidered pattern. The black gros grain silk has the lower part laid in knife pleats to above the knee, where it meets the zipper part underlet trimming. The waist is gathered and the sleeves have caps and ruffles of black lace and balloon puffs.

Greek and Latin, she accumulated information on a great variety of subjects, and her aim was to demonstrate by her individual evidence the universality of feminine intelligence. She was a member of the Societe des Geneves de Lettres and honorary president of the United Societies of Libre-Pensee in the department of Seine-et-Oise.—Paris Letter.

## Chicago's Woman Engineers.

Chicago now has a woman engineer, who has successfully passed the ordeal of a rigid examination. A contemporary says she was not left off easily either because she was a woman. In fact, the writer says her examination was, if anything, a little more severe than usual.

The young woman walked into the board of examiners' room in the city hall, presented her application in a manly way, deposited the official fee—\$2—and then made her way into the line of the applicants to await her turn. Among other questions was asked as to the size of the blowoff required for a seven horse power engine and what she would do if the valves stuck fast. When the examination was finished, the examiners wrote at the end of her paper "accepted," and Miss de Barr is now a full fledged licensed steam engineer.—Detroit Ware, Twilight.

## In Boston, of Course.

"I'm going to get married," said he as he placed a hand as large as a Dutch cheese upon the counter, "and I want a wedding cake."

"It's customary nowadays," said the pretty bakery girl, "to have the majority of the cake harmonize with the coloring of the bridegroom. For a musician, now, we have an oak cake for a man who has no calling and lives upon his friends, the sponge cake, for a newspaper paragrapher, scone cake, and so on. What is you calling, please?"

"I'm a pugilist."

"Then you'll want a pound cake."—Texas Sittings.

## Tanned by the Son.



## Her Little Trap.

"If I do say so," said Mr. McTwain, "I've got a wife who knows more in a minute than any other woman I ever met know in a century. She's a wonder."

"What's she been doing now, McTwain?" asked McTwain.

"Why, she ought to have been a man! She just worked a scheme so neat she had to be possessed of the same temperament for promoting big enterprises and getting all the money, or for going on Wall street and buying stocks on the right side of the market. She's a wonder."

"Now, she just worked a scheme on me that shows her supreme financial ability. About a year ago I came home to dinner one night and found her hard at work sewing. Just as I entered the room in which she was, she straightened up and said,

"How many buttonholes do you think I have made this month?" I told her I hadn't the first idea. "Well," she said proudly, "I've made over a hundred." I suppose that the buttonholes—a good many for a woman who has so many things to do. Mrs. McTwain hardly has, but I felt a bit sportive, and I began to guffaw, telling her that any child could make that many in half a day and half like that."

"She got mad, and if I had taken the warning and quit I would have had more money today than I have. 'Well,' she snapped, 'I think 400 buttonholes are a good many, and, what's more, I shall probably make 1,000 before the year is out, for I have a good deal of sewing to do.' I kept on guffawing like the natural born ass that I am, and she taunted me into making an agreement with her whereby she was to pay me a forfeit if she didn't make 1,000 in a year, and I was to give her a suit spic-

le. She got mad, and if I had taken the warning and quit I would have had more money today than I have. 'Well,' she snapped, 'I think 400 buttonholes are a good many, and, what's more, I shall probably make 1,000 before the year is out, for I have a good deal of sewing to do.' I kept on guffawing like the natural born ass that I am, and she taunted me into making an agreement with her whereby she was to pay me a forfeit if she didn't make 1,000 in a year, and I was to give her a suit spic-

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